For Midway Bldg Survey

Plans Ahead on: Mrs Agnes O'Ne[il] Resturant

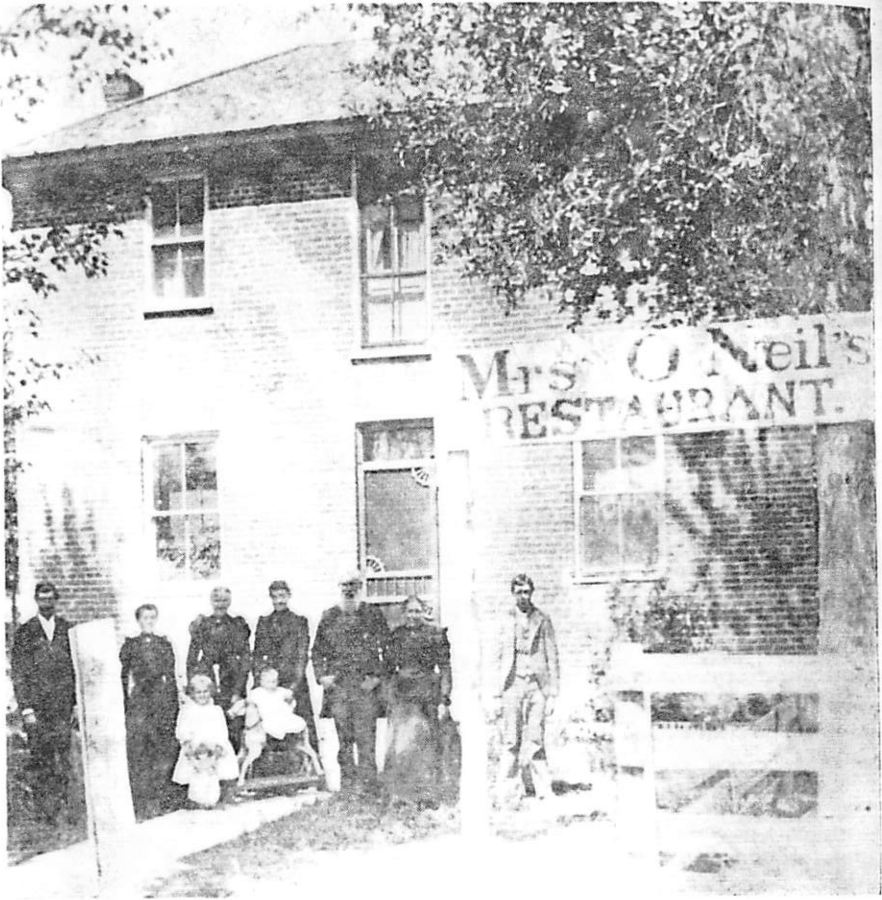
#	What To Do	Date Done
1.	~~Found picture of original Resturant in HBUM p 566~~	
2.	~~Search HBUM pp 667-8, 770-1, 586-7~~	
3.	Take picture of present home	
4	Go to FHL & get FGSs on:	
	John O'Neil & Agnes ("Nannie") Hair	
	Samuel O'Neil ∞ Ruth Rockwood	
	Thomas Hair ∞ Rachell Ellis	
	John Riley Vail ∞ Alice White O'Neil	
	William O'Neil ∞ Susan Ross	
	Samuel Hair ∞	
	Robert Hair ∞	
	Agnes Ritch[ie]	
	James Ritchie	
5.	Find exact address of Resturant	

Get pres[ent] picture [of] Bldg

Wasatch Co. Building Survey

Name of Building: Mrs O'Neil's Resturant

Information Required	Date Found
Location:	
Address: Town: Midway	
Architect:	
Builders:	
Building Material:	
Style of Building:	
Date Built:	
Original Owners:	
FGS	
Pedigree	
Histories	
Pictures	
Subsequent Owners:	
Notes:	
References: 1. HBUM pp 667-8, 770, 771	
2.	

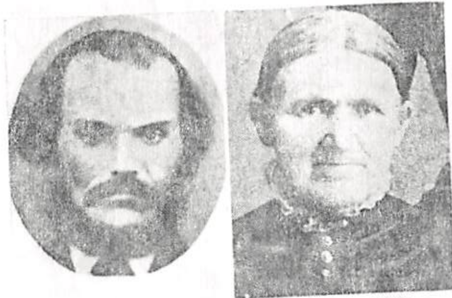


One of the most popular spots in early Midway was Mrs. Agnes O'Neil's Hotel and Restaurant. Shown here in front of the building in this 1897 photograph are, left to right, Samuel O'Neil, Ruth Rockwood O'Neil, Helen Ritchie, baby James Ritchie, Aunt Nannie O'Neil, Agnes Ritchie, Samuel Hair, Rachel Hair and Robert Hair.

add present picture of home

R Raymond Green MD
375 E 2nd North
Heber City UT 84032

JOHN O'NEIL, JR. AND AGNES O'NEIL



Agnes O'Neil, known and beloved by hundreds as "Nannie O'Neil," was one of the colorful characters of Midway.

She was born in County Down, Ireland, January 20, 1828, a daughter of Thomas and Rachel Ellis Hair. Her parents had eight children, seven girls and one boy. Her

brother, Samuel Hair, was well known in Midway in later years.

When Nannie was nine months old her family moved to Scotland, where she spent her young womanhood. In her early years she was employed in the home of a wealthy family.

When Nannie was 17 years old, all of her family had joined the LDS Church but herself. She felt ashamed for her family, and worried over their membership in the Church. Her unhappiness continued for some time until one night she had a dream. She dreamed she was standing on the banks of the River Clyde and a great book opened up before her. A voice spoke to her, bidding her to open to the chapter and verse where it admonished her to "search the scriptures."

The next day she searched the Bible for the reference, and after reading it, went humbly to her mother and said she wished to join the Church. She was baptized by Elder John Smith. The winter was so cold that ice had to be broken for her baptism. Throughout her life she remained a staunch member of the Church.

Shortly after her baptism she was married to John O'Neil at Del Ry, Scotland. Mr. O'Neil was already a good Latter-day Saint.

In May of 1863 they left Scotland to come to America. They had five children at the time, four boys and one girl. They had already buried three sons in Scotland.

They arrived in Utah in October of 1863 and came directly to Midway through the influence of George and James T. Wilson, who were cousins of Nannie.

After settling in Utah the O'Neils had three more children. When the youngest was eight, Nannie was left a widow, and had a hard struggle to keep her family together. After almost eight years as a widow she opened a hotel and became famous throughout the country as a genial hostess and expert cook. She was also an expert seamstress and skilled in embroidery.

She worked faithfully in the Church all her life. She was president of the Primary and a teacher in Relief Society and Sunday School for many years.

Her personality was a powerful force, and she was able to draw people into the closeness of her friendship. As she operated the hotel people gathered in throngs for her parties and celebrations. Her birthday became an occasion of great celebration, and was one of the outstanding celebrations in the valley.

Fine dinners were prepared, gifts were sent, poems were written and programs presented.

Throughout her life Nannie O'Neil was a woman of great popularity and was an influence for good in the community.

Poem Written by William Lindsay

'Tis many a year since first we met
  To visit Nannie O'Neal
To celebrate her natal day
  And wish her kind heart "weel"
We met a hearty welcome
  In her cheerful, kindly way
And many a happy time we've had
  With her the livelong day
Many of those who used to come
  Have passed away and gone.
Their bodies sleeping in their graves
  'Til the resurrection morn
Aunt Nannie, too, was called away
  When nearly eighty-seven
And everyone of us feels sure
  That she is now in Heaven
Because she kept the laws of God
  As nearly as she could
And trusted everyone she met
  As all true Christians should.
Those of her friends who yet remain
  Still hold the memory dear
And gladly meet to celebrate
  Her Birthday every year.

She died on July 16, 1914 at the age of 87.

Children of John and Agnes "Nannie" O'Neil were:

James, an early pioneer of Ashley Valley
William, who served as a state legislator
John, who died soon after the family came from Scotland
Rachel, who married Louis Coleman
Samuel, respected citizen of Midway
Helen
George
Agnes.

His three children also preceded him in death.

JOHN RILEY VAIL AND ALICE WHITE O'NEIL VAIL



John Riley Vail, son of Isaac Vail and Tryshiam Beeler Vail. Born June 7, 1864, Franklin, Oneida County, Idaho. Married Alice White July 26, 1883, Salt Lake City in the Endowment House. Killed in snow slide in Trinidad, Washington, March 1, 1910.

Alice White Vail O'Neil was born November 3, 1864, in Midway, a daughter of C. B. White and Mary Jane Marsh. Married John Riley Vail 1883, in Endowment House. After the death of Mr. Vail married Samuel O'Neil. Died May 18, 1948, in Midway.

Mr. Vail was a carpenter by trade and moved from place to place. He made a home for his family in Midway, Ashley, in the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming, Victor, Idaho, Chopin, Fremont County, Idaho, at the time of his death he was working in Washington. A snow slide struck the train on which he was a passenger.

Alice lived in Midway through her younger life. Her father, C. B. White died when she was a small child. Her mother, Mary Jane Marsh, later married Samuel Thompson. He proved to be a good father to Alice.

During Alice's teenage years she had to help her mother card and spin wool and to color and weave it so that it could be made up in clothing as times were hard. They also knit stockings for the family as well as for other people, to help make a living.

Alice came with her family to Midway to live with her mother while her husband, John Vail, was working in Washington. While she was with her mother, all the children had diphtheria. The little boy George, age 7, died with the disease, and her daughter, Mary (Mellie) was left paralyzed for some time.

While working at Trinidad, Washington, Alice's husband was on a train which was struck by a snow slide and was killed.

Alice took care of her mother who had been stricken with a stroke for about three years. After her mother's death Alice moved to Park City and cooked for boarders.

Her daughter, Naomi Vail Burgeher, was Post Mistress in Midway for 38 years.

Alice was a faithful worker in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served as first counselor and also secretary and treasurer in the Relief Society at Victor, Idaho. She continued working and serving in the church after moving back to Midway. She also nursed the sick and those who needed help. Later she married Samuel O'Neil. He had one son Ellis (adopted).

Samuel O'Neil died April 3, 1935.

Alice White Vail O'Neil died at the age of 83.

Children of John and Alice Vail:

John Heber married Bertha Apley;

Mrs. Charles (Martha Melvina) Bigler. Later married Morris Newell;

Mrs. George (Alice Naomi) Burgener;

Mrs. Luke A. (Mary Teresha) Provost;

Howard Lorenzo, married Louise;

Mrs. Jesse (Cora Loemma) Bigler. Later married Jack McKnight.

Mrs. Orval (Elsie Elvira) Hennickson;

George Gamiel, died in youth;

Myron Houek, married Faye Holdaway.

SAMUEL AND RUTH
ROCKWOOD O'NEIL



Samuel O'Neil, son of John O'Neil and Agnes Cochran Hair O'Neil, was born November 4, 1863, Dalry Ayrshire, Scotland. Married Ruth Rockwood and later Alice Vail. Died April 3, 1935, Midway.

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MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

Ruth Rockwood O'Neil, daughter of Albert R. Rockwood and Susianne Cornwall Rockwood, born November 13, 1872, Salt Lake City. Died October 2, 1914, Midway.

Children of Samuel and Ruth Rockwood O'Neil:

Ellis, born May 1, 1912 in Wayne County. Ellis married Mildred Lee.

Samuel and Ruth O'Neil were honest, kindly people. Mr. O'Neil was a farmer. He was devoted to his church. He was baptized by George Wilson December 1, 1876. He was ordained an elder April 2, 1893. He was ordained a High Priest October 26, 1919 by Joseph F. Smith.

Mrs. O'Neil was an outstanding and effective teacher and helped in most of the auxiliary organizations of the church. She was sustained as second counselor in the Midway 2nd Ward Primary in December, 1907. On October 9, 1909 she was made the president of the Primary. Mrs. O'Neil served as President until December 22, 1913. She was gracious and friendly. Sam and Ruth O'Neil loved young people, and were respected by all the townspeople. 771

WILLIAM AND SUSAN ROSS O'NEIL



William O'Neil was born June 22, 1855, a son of John and Agnes Cochran Hair O'Neil. He married Susan Matilda Ross December 5, 1877 in Midway.

Susan Matilda Ross, daughter of James Jackson and Susan Luvernia Robey Ross, was born in Provo, March 22, 1860.

William spent his young life in Midway and after his marriage to Susan they moved to Roosevelt and Uintah County where they made their permanent home.

He was a missionary to Scotland and Ireland in 1889-1901, and served as president of the Uintah Stake YMMIA. He was first

counselor to Bishop Joseph A. McKee of the Glines Ward and first counselor to S. A. Russell in the Cedar View Branch Presidency. He was assistant Sunday School superintendent, and a teacher in the Glines Ward, as well as a high councilman, and stake missionary. He was also a member of the Third state legislature from Uintah County, and served as secretary-treasurer of the Cedar View Building Company. Other distinctions included school trustee and treasurer of the Roosevelt School District and delegate to the eleventh National Irrigation Congress in 1902. He was also a veteran of the Black Hawk Indian War.

Children of William and Susan were:

William, married Mary Elizabeth Wardle;
Mrs. Joseph James (Susan) Hards;
Mrs. George (Agnes) Fuller;
George, married Lenora Abplanalp;
Mrs. Louis (Nancy) Wall;
Mrs. Samuel Henry (Cora) Summerall;
Lycurgus;
Nellie;
Annie;
Ross;
John Walter.